

Claims

1. Actuating device for uncoupling (actuating) a connection (3) at a towing  
5 installation, which can be rotated through 360 degrees in the horizontal plane,  
arranged on the deck of a vessel, which towing installation comprises a ring (12),  
which is mounted rotatably on the said vessel and is provided with the said  
connection (3) for coupling to a towing cable (2) or the like, which actuating  
device comprises a flexible guide body (14), which is supported by a guide  
member (6, 27) on said ring or on said deck, and a contact body (15) which is  
10 secured to said deck or said ring and, by displacement, can be brought into  
engagement with the said guide body in order in this way to uncouple (actuate)  
the said connection.
2. Actuating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide body (14) is provided  
15 with a number of guide members (6, 27), and a plurality of contact bodies (15)  
are fitted, the distance between the guide members and the distance between the  
contact members differing by at least 10%.
3. Actuating device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the circular guide body is  
20 provided with guide supports, and the contact body, during actuation can move in  
the direction of rotation in such a manner that it can move past one of the two  
sides of the guide support.
4. Actuating device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the guide  
25 supports (27) are designed in such a manner that in the radially inward direction  
they offer support for the guide body (14) and in the radially outward direction  
they allow the guide body to move freely.
5. Actuating device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the contact  
30 body, during rotation, successively moves the guide body out of the guide  
supports, onto the contact body and then back into the guide supports.

6. Actuating device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the contact body is positioned at a sufficient radial distance from the guide supports to prevent them from coming into contact with one another, taking account of the slight deviations in shape of the towing installation which can rotate through 360 degrees and the play in the bearing system.
7. Actuating device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the contact body is provided with a roller/wheel/bearing at the location of the guide body.
8. Actuating device as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the two ends of the guide body follow the arc of a circle and partially overlap one another.